

Holy Land



WHAT
ARE THESE TWO
OLIVE TREES ETC.
ZECH. 4:11-14.

I WILL
GIVE POWER UNTO MY
TWO WITNESSES ---
THESE ARE THE TWO
OLIVE TREES ETC
REV. I: 3, 4.

R.M. SOMMERVILLE
EDITOR & PROPRIETOR
NEW YORK.

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No. June, 1907. 6

OLIVE TREES,

A Monthly Missionary Journal.

Subscription Price, 50 cents a year in the United States and Canada, and 75 cents to foreign countries, and when mailed to subscribers in City of New York.

Address:
R. M. SOMMERVILLE,
No. 325 West 56th Street,
New York.

Entered as Second Class Matter at
Post Office, New York, N. Y.

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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Journal devoted to Missionary Work in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

No.

JUNE, 1907.

6.

QUESTIONS OF THE HOUR.

TIMES OF REFRESHING.*

REV. J. RENWICK WYLIE, NEW GALILEE, PA.

The Church longs for the times predicted in the text, and she confidently hopes for their realization. The address was made to Israel. But the Church from the Apostle's day has expected reviving times, and has on numerous occasions enjoyed them. She has enjoyed them on the same conditions as laid down by her Lord. And it is reasonable and scriptural to believe that she will always receive the blessing only as she complies with the Lord's conditions. Let us study the conditions on which we will receive the blessing.

These refreshing times refer to the enjoyment of a large measure of grace on the part of the people of the Lord, and they have to do with the gathering in of the travail of our Redeemer's soul, the building up of the Church.

First.—**We must look to the Lord for the refreshing.**

It will come, when it does come, from the face of the Lord. He will send it.

**Sermon preached at the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Allegheny, Pa., May 22, 1907, by the retiring Moderator, Rev. J. Renwick Wylie, from Acts 3, 19, "When times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."*

Paul may plant and Apollos may water, but it is God who gives the increase.

Refreshing from the Lord includes three things: **Unwavering confidence that these times shall be enjoyed.** Like Peter, we will have no doubt but that the blessing will be realized. There was a set time in which favor would be shown to Zion. David, speaking of the times of the Messiah, says, "He shall come down like rain on mown grass, like showers that water the earth." Daniel says, "The stone cut out of the mountain without hands became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." Isaiah says, "As the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth—so the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations." The same prophet assures us that in the future "the sun shall no more go down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself, for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land forever." Our Saviour, in the New Testament, says, "Fear not, little flock; it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." No doubt should lodge in our minds. The Lord will revive His people.

But the refreshing will come from the Lord **in answer to continued and earnest supplication.** Christ taught us to pray,

"Thy Kingdom come." He says, "Ask and ye shall receive." The disciples were not permitted to enter upon their work until after they had spent ten days in the most earnest prayer for the power of the Lord, and the prayer was answered by their baptism for service. Paul tells us to continue instant in prayer. There is no question that the Church has failed in laying hold of the power of the Almighty by earnest entreaty. James says, "Ye have not, because ye ask not." It has always been noted that great revivals have been preceded by times of special pleading with the Lord at a throne of grace for His blessing. Even ingatherings in the foreign field have come when the home Church has been giving the Lord no rest until He sends His blessing. If we will be in our private prayer and at the family altar, and in our public meetings, more earnest in our petitions; if we will have special meetings for the purpose of seeking power from above, we may look for the revival that is promised, and that we so much need.

If we look to the Lord for the refreshing times **we will use the means that He has appointed**; we will bring ourselves into harmony with His plan. The disciples must not go until they had the presence of the Spirit, but Pentecost came through the preaching of the word. The day is past for believing that when the Lord's time comes for a great ingathering into the Church, we will have it, regardless of the efforts of His people. He will never establish His Kingdom until His people are wholly devoted to the work. A willing people will come in the day of His power. It is true all through the kingdom that we are to work because that God worketh in us. The means that we use is the Word. "They overcame by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony." "Teaching them to observe

all things whatsoever I have commanded you. When we go into all the world with this broad and full commission, the time is drawing near.

Second.—**To enjoy the blessing we will be in right relation with God.**

The blessing comes from Him. He will bestow it upon the worthy. The text insists on three things—repentance, conversion, pardon; the two former are necessary to our assurance of the latter. God does not hold communion with an un-



J. RENWICK WYLIE.

sanctified Church. "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." Neither does He work for the establishment of the Kingdom with a people that are in spirit with the kingdom of Satan. The reformed man will appreciate the refreshing time. And he will have influence in effecting a revival among men. The penitent Church alone can receive the blessing from the Lord. For the refreshing times will produce a spiritual Church, one that will rejoice in the Christ life. Worldly people

do not desire this. They desire the pleasures of sin for the present. One reason that we do not have the refreshing time is that there are so many who do not desire it. That is, they do not desire a refreshment that will inspire them to live any more closely to the Redeemer; that will demand that they give up any more sin; that will require any more labor in the kingdom. The reviving time is to some extent in our own power. We may have a refreshing time in our own souls, if we will but abandon our sins and yield ourselves wholly to the Lord, and this revival may extend to our families, then to the congregation, and the community. Are we willing to pay the price? "The Lord's hand is not shortened that He cannot save; neither His ear heavy that He cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear."

Third.—If we would have the time of refreshing, we will have great courage in the Master's service.

The word refreshing in the original means to revive out of a faint. The people of the Lord become faint. Isaiah says, "Even the youths shall faint;" the ones the most unlikely, will become discouraged. The Bible makes provision for the faint: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." What causes us to become faint? The difficulties in the Christian life, the slow progress of the Kingdom, the indifference of the world, and lack of proper study of and faith in the Word of God. We labor long in the Christian life, and are scarcely able to detect that we have made progress. We have for fifty years supported the Mission in Syria, and there are less than four hundred people in the Church there. We have toiled for forty years to bring our nation to submit to the reign of Emmanuel,

with the result, that while the truth is not generally called in question by the members of the orthodox churches, yet the great mass of the people are quite indifferent to His claims, and the unbelieving world makes light of our testimony. Wickedness seems more defiant. All manner of corruption in political life is being exposed constantly, and one would suppose that men would recognize the need of the salt of Christianity in the Government. But the multitudes will not consider. The people of the country are not yet willing to submit to the King. The politicians are saying, "We will not have this man to rule over us," and the people of the Lord are weak. The Bible says, "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart." "Consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." The Word says, "To Me every knee shall bow."

Abraham staggered not at the promise through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. The myriads of redeemed souls in the church militant and in the church triumphant declare that He made no mistake. The Church is commissioned to go into all the world. The power of the Christian religion at the present time says that the apostles and seventy disciples made no mistake when they placed their faith in the exalted Redeemer and went forth at His call. Let it be emphasized that the Church has not only the promise that the disciples had, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end," but she has the benefit of the fulfillment of the promise all these years. She has the truth that whenever the people of the Lord exercised faith in Him and had the courage to go forward, they received the blessing. We will have the refreshing time if we will but be courageous in His service.

Fourth.—To enjoy the refreshing season we will lay hold of the Divine power.

The disciples were not allowed to enter upon their work until they had received power from on high. Desirous to testify that Jesus had arisen from the dead and that He had ascended up on high—desirous to herald the tidings that remission of sins could be obtained through His name—they must wait in prayer in the upper room until the Spirit descended upon them, giving them the needed qualifications for their work. It would have been utterly useless to have attempted the work until this result was secured. Their words would have been but idle tales. They waited; when at last suddenly there came a noise from heaven like the rushing of a mighty wind, and the Holy Ghost descended in the form of tongues of fire. That is the symbol—tongues of fire; words that burn; that will reach the heart that is hardened through sin, and that will bring conviction; words that will reach the broken heart to bring comfort, and the inquiring heart to produce satisfaction.

I think that I voice the sentiment of my hearers when I say we are very desirous of power. The ability to so use the word of the Lord that it will not return unto Him void, but so use it that it will act like the arrow—it will strike the heart. We feel that the results of the efforts of the Church are not commensurate with the time and energy that have been expended. We long for the time of refreshing.

How shall we obtain this power? If we receive the power, Christ from the throne must impart it to us. He must send the Comforter to us. There is no other way. He said, "I will send the Comforter." "When He is come He will reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Of sin, because they believe not on Me; of righteousness, because I go

to My Father; of judgment, because the Prince of this world is judged." Reprove, in the sense that He would make plain to the world the sin in rejecting the Saviour; of righteousness, in that Jesus was manifestly the righteous One, in that He was received by the Father. If the Comforter will thus reprove the world in our times we will have the desired power. This is the promise, and for this we hope and pray. We need this power in the home Church. If the home Church is not able to live and grow, the support of the public work ceases. The workers in the field will partake of the spirit and power of the Church that sustains them; if the Church has the power from on high, the workers in the reforms and in the missions will partake of the same. It has often been observed that great revivals in the missions of the Church have been preceded by seasons of earnest and continued prayer in the home field.

Let us try to obtain this power at home that it may be imparted to those who represent us abroad. When we have this power the Kingdom will come; nations will be born in a day; great multitudes will come to the Church, and the question will be asked, "Who are these that fly as a cloud and as doves to their windows?" The power is ours if we will by faith lay hold of it. If we will but claim the promise and refuse to leave the throne of grace until God has heard our cry.

Fifth.—In the times of refreshing there will be great activity in Christian service.

The call to go into all the world and preach the gospel is directed to this age. Our children cannot reach the millions of people that are living now. The unconverted are passing to the judgment. Two persons every second of time are leaving the world, and according to the plain teaching of the word their destiny is sealed

forever. More than two-thirds of this number are without God and without hope. Possibly one-half of these have never heard of redemption through the blood of Jesus.

Even if the Church were fully devoted to the work of evangelization, millions would be lost before the gospel would reach them. We have been appalled by the great number of people that are famishing in China for lack of bread, and liberal contributions are being made that some of the famishing ones may be saved. But there is much greater spiritual famine in China, in India, in Africa, in Turkey, than there is famine for lack of natural food. Multitudes might say that no one cares for my soul. A quarter of a century has passed since the urgent call was made that the world be evangelized in this age, but the work lingers.

We have facilities for greatly increased activities. In a few weeks we can reach localities that formerly required as many months. When the pioneer, Mr. Gordon, first sailed to India as a missionary, it required five months to make the journey; but when his son traveled to the same place it required but four weeks. A missionary called home from Egypt to see a sick mother made the journey in two weeks. Pioneer missionaries have opened up the way into all the heathen lands, and we have the Bible translated into many languages and dialects. We can reach the remotest parts of the world by the telegraph or the telephone.

We have educational facilities at home, and the Lord has blessed our land with unparalleled prosperity. We have the commission, and we have the promise. The Lord has set His seal of approval to the work in the precious souls saved. One thing we must have, viz., the determination that by the blessing of God the world shall be evangelized in our age.

Is there an awakening in the Church? If we speak of our own body, we are greatly encouraged by the fact that since our last meeting of Synod, eight missionaries have heard the call of the Church and of the Lord and have given themselves to the work, and have been accepted by the Board. Two of them are already in the field, and the remainder are soon to follow. We are not without evidences of a renewed interest among the people. Some of us recognize that God blessed our body with a number of wealthy and liberal men, who did much to establish a reputation for liberality for our body. Possibly there were apprehensions as to how the work would be carried forward when they were removed. Some of these made liberal provision that the work would be supported when they were gone. But if we compare the statistics of last year with those of fifteen years ago, we find that, while our body has decreased in numbers to the extent of fifteen hundred in round numbers, our total contributions have slightly increased, and the per capita increase has been from \$19.20 to \$22.53, or \$3.33. But as we have lost during these years a number of the wealthy and liberal members of the Church, it is probable that these figures are not a correct representation of the real increase in liberality. In the United Presbyterian Church the average contribution per member for missionary, benevolent and educational purposes has increased from \$3.16 in 1890 to \$5.00 in 1906. Yearly, this Church is striving to increase her contributions. The contributions for foreign missions in the Presbyterian Church in the year 1905 had increased over the contributions of the year 1892, about \$230,000, and the laymen, at their meeting in the city of Omaha, resolved to take measures to increase their contributions to foreign work five fold.

Mr. Robert Speer, of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, has shown, in a lengthy statistical article, that the total increase in the leading evangelistic churches in contributions for foreign missions is 39 per cent., while the increase in membership of the home Church is 34 per cent. in the last thirteen years, ending Dec. 31, 1905. He has also shown that the total number of foreign missionaries has increased during the same period 52 per cent., and the native converts have increased about 50 per cent. These are signs

that the Lord will soon send the times of refreshing to His Church.

Is it too much to hope that this Synod will mark a new era in our efforts to advance the declarative glory of our Lord? May the Holy Spirit inspire us to make wise plans, and while here may we receive a baptism of the Spirit that will give us power to work in the vineyard of the Lord! May there proceed from this Meeting of the Elders a spiritual influence that will quicken our beloved Church.



If we had right views of ourselves, we should judge none too base to be reclaimed. - - - Those whom Jesus would have grasped by the hand, we will scarcely touch with a pair of tongs; such is the pride of many professors. - - - If we were more like Christ, we should be more ready to hope for the hopeless, to value the worthless, and to love the depraved. The following anecdote, which the writer received from the lips of an esteemed minister of the Church of England, may perhaps, as a fact, plead more forcibly than words. A clergyman of a parish in Ireland, in the course of his visitations, had called upon every one of his flock, with but one exception. This was a woman of most abandoned character, and he feared that by entering her house he might give occasion of offense to gain-sayers, and bring dishonor upon his profession. One Sabbath he observed her among the frequenters of his church, and for weeks he noticed her attention to the Word of life. He thought, too, that amid the sound of the responses he could detect one sweet and earnest voice, solemnly confessing sin, and imploring mercy. - - - He intensely desired to speak with her concerning the abounding grace which, he hoped, had plucked her from the burning. Still, the same delicacy of feeling forbade him to enter the house. Time after time he passed her door with longing looks, anxious for her salvation, but jealous of his own honor. - - - One day she called to him, and with overflowing tears, which well betrayed her bursting heart, she said, "Oh, sir, if your Master had been in this village half as long as you have, He would have called to see me long ago, for surely I am the chief of sinners, and therefore have need of His mercy." From that time forth he resolved to neglect none, but to gather even the "outcasts of Israel."—*C. H. Spurgeon.*



A notable mark of the change which is coming over China is the issue in Peking and some other places of newspapers in the Mandarin colloquial; and it is now announced that the *Honan Official Gazette* is henceforth to appear in the colloquial for "the benefit of the common people." This is a striking innovation, and will have far-reaching consequences. During China's long past, education has been confined to the few, and the key of knowledge hidden from the multitude in an abstruse, artificial style of writing. Now that the key is being given to the common people, a new era has begun.—*Rev. Geo. Owens.*

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

ABROAD.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Report of the Board of Foreign Missions has been placed in our hands. A review of this Report indicates that we have the manifest favor of God in our work.

First: Our prayer, continued for a number of years, that God would send forth laborers into His vineyard, is being answered in the eight missionaries that have during the year volunteered for service.

Second: In the continued liberality of the Church in increasing her contributions for the general work of the Missions, and especially in the very liberal response to the appeal made for the means to purchase a building in Tarsus; the Board having called for \$2,000, and the Church responding with more than \$3,500. The Church is still devoted to the cause in Syria. The gospel will be preached in the native city of the great Apostle of the Gentiles, and a population of 35,000 people will have the opportunity of hearing the precious offer of salvation.

Third: In the continued activity of our missionaries. The Report shows that all have labored diligently by the preaching of the Word, the publication and distribution of literature, the work in the schools, pastoral oversight, and the devoted work of the medical missionaries, to build up the Kingdom and save immortal souls.

Fourth: In the souls that are brought into the Kingdom. The people are waiting upon the ordinances; seven in Suadia and prospects of more making application for Church membership; twelve in the

field at Latakia; seventeen in Mersina, and, notwithstanding the opposition in Cyprus, four there have been received into the Church. And in far-off China men are turning from idols to the service of the living God; eighteen have been received into the Church, and there are twenty-five receiving instruction. In our day the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

Fifth: In the good news that, owing to the proclamation of the highest official in Turkey, our schools in Syria and in Asia Minor will be carried on under more favorable auspices, and permitting us to hope that we will have permission to open the schools in the mountain.

Sixth: In the fact that the Church, by divine grace, has been enabled to go forward unweariedly in sunshine and gloom, in the great work of evangelism, and that to-day she is courageous in obeying the commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

Your committee makes mention of the goodness of our Covenant God in permitting our honored missionary, Rev. R. J. Dodds, accompanied by his family, to arrive in our midst in safety, that he may enjoy a season of rest from his labors.

Resolved, 1. That we urge the members of the Church to read carefully the Report of the Board of Foreign Missions, that they may be acquainted with the unwearied labors of our missionaries, and that they may see the seals that God sets to our efforts in saving souls.

2. That we emphasize the need, mentioned by the Board, for one ministerial missionary and two lady teachers for Latakia and Mersina, and also two lady

teachers for China, and we appeal for volunteers to meet the demand.

3. That Synod heartily endorses the proposal of the Board to ask the Church to raise a semi-centennial fund of \$25,000 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of our missionary work in Syria.

4. That Rev. J. C. Slater be elected a member of the Board of Foreign Missions.

5. That the matter of the ordination of Mr. Ernest C. Mitchell and of Mr. W. M. Robb, missionaries-elect, be referred to their respective Presbyteries.

6. That W. M. Robb and Ernest Mitchell and Rev. R. A. Blair, missionaries-elect, and Rev. R. J. Dodds be heard by Synod. And that R. M. Sommerville, Corresponding Secretary, also address the Court.

7. That the Board continue the oversight of mission study on the part of the young people of the Church.

8. That the Board take under consideration the matter of the publishing in pamphlet form the addresses delivered on the evening that we celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of our Mission in Syria.

9. That the Board of Foreign Missions be instructed to prepare a programme for Conference on foreign missions, for Friday evening of next meeting of Synod.

J. R. WYLIE,

R. C. REED,

T. G. McELHINNEY.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

No enterprise can be successful without the impetus of enthusiasm. A certain Lord Lansdowne once asked Dr. Price what he could do for the moral uplifting of a community in which he took a special interest, and this was the quick reply of the Arian minister: "Send them an enthusiast." This is what is needed, if great things are to be accomplished in the cause of foreign missions. Enthusiasm

in the ministry and membership of the churches at home and in their chosen representatives abroad would impel to such impetuous assaults on the strongholds of the enemy that alike the visible powers that oppose the truth and the hidden forces that retard the development of the gospel kingdom would speedily be overthrown, and all the nations of the world would fall in Christian loyalty at the feet of the enthroned Redeemer.

This is the central theme of prophecy, and no one, who is confidently looking for the day when the Lord shall take to Himself His great power and reign, can fail to observe, as our Reformed Presbyterian Church enters upon a second half century of foreign missionary work, three facts that stand out in bold relief and challenge admiring attention:

There is, first of all, the fact that, since the last meeting of Synod eight missionaries have been appointed and are either already on the field or are making arrangements for an early departure. As far as man can judge they have surrendered themselves and have been commissioned to a service to which the Lord has called them and for which He will supply the necessary equipment. Already their lives illustrate the reality and power of spiritual religion, and under the direction of the Holy Spirit their character will unite with their teaching to promote the glory of God in the salvation of souls and the reformation of the communities where they shall labor.

Alongside of this increase in the working force there stands the second fact of the growing liberality of the people for the support of their foreign representatives. While the receipts from congregations, Sabbath schools and missionary societies for the Chinese Mission were a trifle less than last year, the receipts from the same sources for the Levant Missions

were over \$300 more than last year. It is not necessary, however, to burden this Report with figures, as receipts and expenditures can be seen in detail in the financial statements of the Treasurer, who is able to record a credit balance of \$3889 in the Syrian Mission, and a credit balance of \$10,045 in the Mission to China. But it is not the condition of the current account funds that measures the liberality of the people so much as their willing offerings for special purposes. When an appeal was sent out for money to purchase a house in Tarsus, Asia Minor, they insisted on giving nearly double the amount asked for. This is most encouraging, showing that individuals and churches are being educated to the idea of stewardship in the management of their property.

The third and last fact is that, according to a press dispatch from Constantinople, which is on the authority of the Secretary of State "substantially correct," the Turkish Government has, after many years of delay and equivocation, issued an order declaring that "American schools in Turkey and other institutions, for which official recognition had been demanded, shall hereafter be treated on the same footing as those" of France and other favored nations. This declaration means that our schools now in operation in Syria and Asiá Minor are conducted with the approval of the Sublime Porte, and probably that the work in Mountain Schools, closed years ago, may be resumed. At any rate, the action is a step in the direction of greater freedom from interference on the part of the local authorities. This is the doing of the Lord, and furnishes a fresh proof that He holds the right of mediatorial sovereignty over all lands, and will do His pleasure in those lands even when they refuse to recognize His supremacy.

Syria.—The work in Northern Syria seems to be in a very promising condition. The arrival of Rev. Andrew J. McFarland with his family and Miss Zada Patton, Nov. 9, 1906, and the prospect of welcoming others in the near future, have carried fresh courage into the hearts of missionaries on the ground who had been so long praying and looking for help.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR SUADIA.

Rev. J. Boggs Dodds, pastor of the congregation at Sterling, Kans., yearning over his old friends in Suadia among whom he had once labored faithfully and who were left almost entirely destitute of Christian privileges by the death of the late Miss Meta Cunningham, offered his services to the Board for two years that he might look after their spiritual interests until the new missionaries had acquired sufficient command of the Arabic to preach the gospel to them in their own tongue. Having obtained leave of absence from his congregation for that length of time and for that purpose, he sailed for Syria last August. Parting with wife and children, an attached people, and a large circle of friends, he went out for the sake of the Name, and since Oct. 5 has made his home in Suadia. Untiring in his efforts to reach the perishing, besides teaching between four and five hours a day, conducting a meeting for women on Tuesday and the regular prayer meeting on Thursday, he has held, according to the field report, "four nightly prayer meetings, each in a different part of the Orontes Valley, so that a different set of people is reached each time," and "in houses where a gospel service would not have been thought of five years ago." As might be expected, God has blessed his ministry. He is preaching twice on Sabbath to a full house; and "upon a general invitation, given as it is each Lord's Day, seven persons wholly outside the Protest-

ant community heretofore, have risen and made request to be received into church fellowship," and "there is good hope that others may make a profession soon."

Owing largely to the efforts of Mr. Dodds, "the Turkish Government has formally recognized the existence of a Protestant sect, both in Latakia and Suadia." "This," writes Mr. Stewart, "confers upon them various civil privileges, but we are sorry to say that these privileges are denied to any one known to the Government as of Ansairia origin. Such persons are enrolled as Moslems, regardless of their profession of Christianity, and of their own wishes. This attitude makes it practically impossible to preach the gospel to the Ansairia openly."

LATAKIA CENTER.

With similar diligence and fidelity has the work been carried on at Latakia, the center of operations in Syria. Rev. James S. Stewart reports the pulpit occupied twice every Sabbath unless it was necessary for him to be away visiting some of the five outposts, not infrequently every seat in the audience room filled at the morning service. In each of these five villages there are communicants, running from six in Inkzik to seventy-seven in Gunaimia, to whom the gospel is preached with as much regularity as practicable either by the missionary in charge or a native evangelist. In each of them, except Jendairia and Bahamra—Ansairia strongholds—there are schools, that at Tartous in charge of Licentiate Juraidiny reporting one hundred and twenty names on the roll, with an average attendance of one hundred. Mr. Juraidiny also preaches every Sabbath, and, as Mr. Stewart writes, "the attendance of young men, former pupils of the school, is especially encouraging at this time, and evidently nothing but fear of persecution from the Greeks is hindering a number from becoming

Protestants." The Lord's Supper was administered six times during the year, and there was an accession of twelve on profession of faith, but owing chiefly to emigration, fifteen names had to be removed from the roll, showing a net decrease of three, and a present membership of two hundred and fifty-seven.

SCHOOL WORK.

In this center there were four hundred and six children and young people under the instruction of ten male and five female teachers in five day and two boarding schools. In the annual statement of the Mission, Mr. Stewart calls attention to the value of these schools, and especially of the boarding schools, with forty-six boys, of whom two made confession of Christ, and fifty-five girls, of whom four were received into the fellowship of the Church on profession of faith. "The missionaries," he says, referring to Miss Maggie B. Edgar and Miss Mattie R. Wylie, "who have charge of these schools, give special attention to the religious studies and exercises, both supplementing the work of the teachers and teaching classes themselves in the Bible, Catechisms, etc. There is good ground for encouragement in that so many are being taught the way of life, and that so many are deemed worthy to be received into the Church, and that there are evident signs of growth in some who have been in the Church for a time. Although we do not see evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence and power that we long for, yet we labor and pray in the confident expectation that the blessing will yet be given, and so our labors shall not be in vain in the Lord. These boys and girls represent some fourteen different villages and five different sects, and this is a factor of no small importance in estimating the influence of such schools. The word of life may be thus carried to many homes and to many villages where there is no

hope, under present conditions, of the formal preaching of the gospel." In view of this, there is pressing need of another missionary teacher in this field.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The medical department has also been conducted with good results. Dr. Balph reports eighteen hundred visits to patients at their homes, not less than one thousand office patients, and an average of forty at the tri-weekly clinics, and then adds: "Since the religious services at these clinics were largely attended by those classes of persons who are practically inaccessible by any other means at our command, we have been able to present the truth to a large number who otherwise would not have heard it at all." Speaking of the hospital, where a hundred cases were treated during the year, the Doctor says: "Many of those who came under our care were entirely ignorant of the Bible," and "in a number of instances the daily religious instruction given in the hospital has borne fruit in the changed lives of those who received it." The interests of this department demand the immediate appointment of a matron for the hospital.

Asia Minor.—About ninety miles northwest of Latakia lies Mersina, the port of entrance to our field in Asia Minor. The work, which includes the three cities of Mersina, Tarsus and Adana, with outlying villages, was not very satisfactory to the missionaries at the beginning of the year for a variety of reasons, which will be found in their annual statement, but it seems now to have taken on a more vigorous life.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The Lord's Supper was administered three times, and as the tabulated statistics show, there were seventeen added to the membership of the Church, but owing to death, defection and the removal of ten

from the bounds of the Mission, the eighty-six communicants enrolled must be reduced to sixty-five at present in good standing. There was preaching in Mersina twice each Sabbath, as well as a mid-week prayer meeting, conducted by one of the ministers in charge, and in the language of the field report, "a number of cottage preaching services have been held in a quarter of the town distant a mile or so from the Mission, with a very encouraging attendance both as regards numbers and interest manifested." Rev. C. A. Dodds will occupy the pulpit during the absence of his brother, Rev. R. J. Dodds, who, after a prolonged term of arduous service alone, has been granted a furlough which he will spend among his friends in this country, or until another minister is appointed to go to his assistance. And, in the judgment of the Board, it is imperative for his own comfort and for the successful development of the work that he should have an associate as soon as practicable.

SCHOOL WORK.

There were two hundred and ninety pupils under instruction in this field during the year, of whom two hundred and fifty were in the two schools at Mersina, "classified as follows: two Armenians, two Roman Catholics, six Moslems, seven Jews, nine Jacobites, eighteen Protestants, thirty Fellahin, and one hundred and seventy-six Greek Orthodox." Miss E. M. Sterrett has the responsible oversight of both these schools, and, although she labors on without expressing any dissatisfaction and is accomplishing good results, it is not right to ask her to carry so heavy a burden alone. There should be another American teacher, and the position is a most desirable one for any young woman who wishes to devote her life to missionary work.

CHEERING ITEMS.

The Mission is cheered by the generous contribution of the Church at home for the purchase of a house in Tarsus, and also by the appointment of Dr. John Peoples, a graduate of the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, and an esteemed elder of the Second Church of the Covenanters in that city, as medical missionary. He expects to leave for Mersina in October.

Cyprus.—Less than ninety miles southwest of this field and about sixty miles west of our field in Northern Syria, is the island of Cyprus, where work is carried on by Rev. Walter McCarroll and his brother, Dr. Calvin McCarroll. Recent events, seemingly adverse, have led one of them to say, "The visible results are not encouraging," and the other, "The spiritual results are not so evident as we could wish, but results are with the Lord, and we shall labor on." The gospel has been preached faithfully at three central points, and the Lord's Supper has been administered five times. There was an accession of four, but this increase was wiped out by the removal of four members from the island. The attendance at the school in Larnaca was not so large as formerly, but, according to the field report, there were forty-eight pupils, including fourteen Turkish boys, enrolled, the income from tuition fees showed a fair profit, and "Bible teaching was more systematic and thorough than in former years."

OPPOSITION IN NICOSIA.

The chapel at Nicosia, a gift of Mr. Peponiades, was dedicated on the second Sabbath of March, not without tokens of the divine presence and favor. But since that time it has been the scene of confusion and disturbances that interrupted the services and resulted in some slight damage to the property. The ringleaders, who seem to have been chiefly boys, were

arrested and tried before Judge Parker, an Englishman, who imposed fines and imprisonments, told them that the British Government secured to every one the right to worship God according to his convictions, and warned them that he would act with greater severity, if they were ever brought before him again on a similar charge. The promise which Mr. McCarroll quotes to encourage his own heart in a crisis hour is indeed a spring of comfort and courage, when the enemy threatens: "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God," etc. Temporary repulses are not only not defeats, but are not infrequently the forerunners of victory.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The "Martha J. Shaw Memorial" building has also been completed, and thus the beneficence of the late Rev. D. J. Shaw has provided for our medical missionary and his family a comfortable and convenient home. Although busily engaged since last July in superintending the erection of these buildings, Dr. McCarroll did not neglect his bi-weekly clinics, at which there was an average attendance of about thirty patients, and which are connected with devotional exercises in Greek and Turkish, and the distribution of tracts.

China.—In remarkable contrast with the disturbed condition of things in Cyprus and the persistent opposition of the Greek Church to Protestant Christianity is the glad reception given to our missionaries and their teachings in China. The individual reports of the missionaries are full of interesting details that make up a most inspiring story of successful labors.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

There were eighteen added to the Church during the year, a net increase of thirteen, making a present membership of fifty-three native communicants. There were more applicants than on any former

occasion in the history of the Mission, partly, in the opinion of Rev. A. I. Robb, the result of evangelistic tours into the surrounding country, and "partly owing to the hospital and school work, but perhaps most of all owing to the earnest work of some of our members." "Twenty-five persons enrolled as catechumens, and five of these are literary men, and one a first-class graduate. These represent five new communities where the gospel has not had a foothold." Speaking of these applicants in a recent letter, Rev. Julius Kempf relates this touching incident: "Four are young men, - - - and their coming out into the light is the result of Chi Tung's steadfastness under persecution. Chi Tung became a believer about a year ago, and when he announced the fact to his people they started in to scold and beat him, and used various other means to turn him from his new faith. Shortly afterward he was baptized, and when he returned home and it became known that he had identified himself with the Christians, his relatives and members of his own family seized him and bound him and gave him a severe beating. Among the persecutors were these four men. Chi Tung's persistency in holding on to the new faith aroused their interest, and although they were bitter against him, they could not help but think that there must be something in this new belief, when for the sake of it a man would endure so much. One of them, who happens to be an older brother of Chi Tung, came to the hospital some months ago for treatment, and while here he showed bitter opposition to Christianity, and in conversation with the native Christians, tried to argue against it. But the matter evidently did not rest peaceably on his mind. When he returned home he took a Testament and a goodly supply of tracts with him. The power of the word and Chi

Tung's example soon brought him and the other three men under conviction, and at Communion time they came to declare their belief and ask for admission to the Church. When Mr. Robb questioned them the brother's face so lit up that one could easily recognize that he had indeed found the true light."

TRAINING SCHOOL.

Besides conducting the Communion and the special preparation for those services, such as the examination of candidates and a week of Bible study, our senior missionary opened a training class for native workers March 20, 1906, and at the close of the first term of four months, which was largely devoted to a study of the Life of Christ, the four students in attendance had, in the language of the report, "memorized the outline up to the close of the Perea ministry, each one giving it complete on examination day, and could enlarge on any item called for." They had also "memorized one question in the Shorter Catechism each day," and at the end of the second term of three months and a half, Jan. 17, 1907, had completed it as well as the Life of Christ, and had reached the eighteenth chapter of the Acts in their New Testament studies. This class, which also receives instruction in Arithmetic, Geography and Universal History, in the Chinese Classics and "the reading and writing of Chinese in Roman characters," always began its work with devotional exercises; "and every evening worship was held not only for the students, but for the hospital assistants and such patients and others as could come."

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

In the "Robert McNeill Memorial Chapel" there was public worship twice every Sabbath. The morning services, which were generally conducted by Rev. J. K. Robb, "have been," he writes, "much

the same in character as such services in our home churches, the purpose being to build up the converted in the faith and also to bring the knowledge of Jesus Christ to those yet in ignorance of Him." At the afternoon meeting, which is specially intended for the unconverted, and at which the students speak, the attendance has been much larger than usual, and the results most encouraging. In order to reach with the gospel those who do not attend the regular services, a building has been erected in the city "with three good-sized rooms." On the first floor there are two rooms, which will be used, one for preaching services and the other for a preparatory training school for boys, while the room on the second floor will be fitted up as a reading room and "stocked with Chinese literature, most of which will have a direct bearing on the Christian religion." It is worthy of honorable mention that "a fair proportion of the cost of this property," about \$750 in gold, "is being borne by the Christian converts." During the absence of Rev. A. I. Robb for a few months this summer, the school for boys, which was opened in this building in March, will be in charge of Rev. Julius Kempf, whose "time," as he reports, "has been almost wholly taken up in the study of the language," with an occasional address at the Chinese prayer meeting and teaching a Bible class Sabbath mornings.

SCHOOL WORK.

Six of the baptized members of the Church at Tak Hing Chau are the fruit of the school which Mrs. Wright has carried on so efficiently without any remuneration except the satisfaction of doing good. In April, 1906, she was left without any native help till the summer vacation, but the Drs. McBurney came loyally to her assistance. When the school was resumed in October, Li Lau Yung, who some years ago was rescued from slavery by Rev. and

Mrs. A. I. Robb, was appointed teacher. Mrs. Wright describes her as "a good strong girl, with a determination to make things go, and a love for children." And she adds: "We are pleased and encouraged with her work in the school."

The primary object of this school is to bring children to the Saviour, and in view of the results that are sure to flow from this form of service, it seems strange that there is no response to repeated calls for a missionary teacher to go to this field. The work, however, is the Lord's, and we must look to Him to qualify and when the set time has come to send forth young women whose labors He will own for the accomplishing of His purpose.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The "Gregg Memorial Hospital," a monument to the liberality of Mrs. M. M. Gregg, of Central Allegheny Congregation, is completed and presents a fine appearance. It consists of a main building, with two wings, and is divided into two departments, with a capacity for forty beds. There is also a private ward, and one of the women's wards is named the "Wiggins Ward" in memory of Mrs. S. R. Wiggins, of First Philadelphia.

The Chinese name of this institution is, when translated into English, "The Hospital of Benevolence," and the standing rule of the institution is that "no one shall be turned away without medical treatment or without hearing the gospel." The male department is in charge of Dr. J. M. Wright, and the female department is under the direction and control of Drs. Kate and Jean McBurney, who speak of their work as at once "interesting and hopeful." Without quoting their reports in full, it would not be possible to give the Church any clear conception of what the Redeemer is effecting through the instrumentality of medicine and surgery at Tak Hing Chau. The contact of these

three Christian physicians with patients in the hospital, their professional visits in the homes of the people, and their calls to treat cases in distant villages indicate opportunities for making known the Saviour that are not allowed to pass unimproved, and whose possibilities no human mind can measure.

EXTENDING THE WORK.

The missionaries are unable to report any progress in Do Sing, where a building was rented in the spring of 1906. But they can speak of an encouraging outlook at Lin Tan, a town about twenty miles southwest of Tak Hing Chau and "located in the midst of a fertile and populous section of country," where they secured a building in September, and which they visited several times last winter. There is also a cheering prospect of being able to extend the work into other fields, "both north and south," so that the new missionaries, Rev. R. A. Blair, of Utica, O., and Licentiates W. M. Robb and E. C. Mitchell, who expect to leave for China in the autumn, will be a welcome reinforcement. Their Presbyteries should take action in regard to the ordination of Messrs. Robb and Mitchell.

GENERAL ITEMS.

The Board will close its Report with four general items:

As a call has been issued for another minister and two school teachers for the Syrian Mission, involving additional expenditures, and as there is a pressing demand for more laborers to cultivate the fields in the Levant, we believe that the present annual appropriation of \$15,000 should be advanced to \$17,500.

Acting on the instructions of Synod, the Board recommended "Christus Redemptor" as a suitable textbook for mission study classes. Although no formal report has been received from Rev. I. A. Blackwood, who was elected Educational Secretary,

there is good reason to believe that through his efforts the book has been studied very generally by societies and churches.

Arrangements have also been made to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of our Foreign Missions on Friday evening, May 24. The programme, herewith presented, provides for three addresses; singing three selections from the Psalter; volunteer remarks by members of the court which should not exceed two minutes; and prayer.

In this connection we take the liberty of suggesting an appeal to the churches to raise a semi-centennial fund of at least \$25,000 to be employed in extending the work of foreign missions. The importance of such a movement was called to our attention by Rev. T. M. Slater, of Seattle, Wash., who said that he had \$100 for that purpose and was sure that others were waiting for an opportunity to contribute. We are convinced that, if the young ministers are ready to take up this matter and push it, the fund may already be regarded as an accomplished fact.

R. M. SOMMERVILLE,

Cor. Sec'y.

FIELD REPORTS.

NORTHERN SYRIA.

The measure of grace, mercy and peace meted out to us during the past year calls for profound thanksgiving to God. There has been a great deal of sickness in Latakia, yet the health of the missionaries and of the native Protestant community has, with a few exceptions, been very good. We have been permitted to prosecute our work uninterruptedly along the usual lines, which are mainly medical, educational and evangelistic, with at least an average amount of interest and success.

We have been greatly encouraged by the reinforcement of the Mission, as giving

proof of the Church's continued interest in her work in this field. The new missionaries arrived at Latakia Nov. 9, and received a cordial welcome. Rev. A. J. McFarland and Miss Zada A. Patton have since been diligently studying Arabic, and with evident tokens of success. It is too soon to speak with confidence, but we may venture to hope that they may attain to heights of Arabic scholarship hitherto unreached by any "Covenanter missionary." We have been called to mourn on account of the death of two of our former associates, Miss Willia Dodds and Rev. Henry Easson. We sympathize with the bereaved relatives and friends, and beseech the Divine Shepherd to grant them protection and peace. In this report we shall note, first of all, the work carried on in Latakia Center, and then in each of the out-stations.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dr. J. M. Balph reports the work of another year is finished, and its successes and failures belong to the past. We look back upon it with gratitude for the opportunities that have come to us, and for grace to improve them; at the same time regretting that we have accomplished so little. However, the amount of work done has exceeded that of former years. More than eighteen hundred visits have been made to the homes of patients, and of these, more than four hundred were made in the month of January. Tri-weekly clinics have been held, with an estimated attendance of forty on the average. This does not include the patients that were seen at the office at other than clinic hours, the number of whom was perhaps not less than one thousand. In accordance with the established custom, religious services were regularly held at these clinics, and since they were largely attended by those classes of persons who are practically inaccessible by any other

means at our command, we have been able to present the truth to a large number who otherwise would not have heard it at all.

In the hospital we still labor under the disadvantage of carrying on the work without a matron. The added responsibilities thus thrown upon the physician have been willingly shared by those employed in this department; but, with all this, the need of some one to fill this position is deeply felt. The work of the year has been fully up to the average. One hundred cases have been treated, most of them successfully. Many of those who have come under our care were entirely ignorant of the Bible. Daily religious instruction was given, and morning and evening worship conducted. In a number of instances this instruction has borne fruit in the changed lives of those who received it.

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOLS.

The courses of study and the daily exercises in these schools are so familiar to you that it is not necessary to dwell upon them here. The girls' school, under the charge of Miss M. R. Wylie, has fifty-five boarders and about fifty day pupils. She reports that they have shown commendable diligence in their studies. Four of the girls were received into membership of the Church. Their C. E. Society meets each Sabbath afternoon. Their contributions amount to about two dollars. The boys' school, under Miss M. B. Edgar's care, has forty-six boarders and about thirty-five day pupils. Two of the boys were received into the Church. Their C. E. Society meets each Sabbath morning, and they have contributed in pennies, halves, and fifths of a penny, the equivalent of five dollars. They sent their collections for last year of \$7.25 to the Jewish Mission at Philadelphia.

The missionaries who have charge of

these schools give special attention to the religious studies and exercises, both supplementing the work of the teachers and teaching classes themselves, in Bible, Catechisms, etc. There is good ground for encouragement, in that so many are being taught the way of life, and that so many are deemed worthy to be received into the Church, and that there are evident signs of growth in some that have been in the Church for a time. Although we do not see the evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence and power that we long for, yet we labor and pray on in the confident expectation that the blessing will yet be given, and so our labors shall not be in vain in the Lord. These boys and girls represent some fourteen different villages and five different sects; and this is a factor of no small importance in estimating the influence of such schools. The word of life may be thus carried to many homes and to many villages where there is no hope, under present conditions, of the formal preaching of the gospel.

OTHER SERVICES.

Space will not permit us to make extended reference to the week-day prayer meeting, the observance of the week of prayer, the work of family visitation, the teachers' meeting, the woman's meeting for devotion, and the aid society, and last, but not least, the Sabbath school. This is still under the superintendence of Miss Wylie, and has been continued throughout the whole year. During the school year the average attendance has been one hundred and thirty pupils, and in the summer about forty-five. The collections, \$18.50, were paid into the Mission treasury.

THE PUBLIC PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL.

Latakia.—The pulpit has been occupied twice each Sabbath, whenever practicable; when otherwise, there have been meetings for prayer. The attendance has

been good. At the morning service, when there is the largest number of outsiders present, often every seat is occupied. The Lord's Supper has been twice dispensed, viz., on June 24 and Jan. 20. Upon the latter occasion we were favored with the presence and help of Rev. R. J. Dodds. There were nine accessions, two being by profession and baptism, being Ansairia.

Inkzik.—At the north end of our field is the Greek Orthodox village of Inkzik. The gospel leaven has largely permeated the village, but the persecuting power of the Greek Church, aided by the Turkish Government, is arrayed against the "Gospel Church," as it is often called here. We have a primary school with an attendance of twenty to twenty-five pupils, studying the New Testament, Psalms in meter and Catechisms. During the summer one of the Latakia teachers, who is now employed as an itinerant, resides at Inkzik, and the meetings for worship and the Communion are held in his house. There are six communicants.

Gunaimia.—More than half of this Armenian village is Protestant. There are seventy-seven communicants on the roll. A Communion was held Sept. 30. There is a primary school for boys and girls, with an average attendance of about twenty-five.

Jendairia.—In this Ansairia village we have sixteen church members. We cannot have a school, but many of the children are in the Latakia schools. Services were held each Sabbath during the summer; at other times not so frequently.

Bahamra.—The old Mission house at this place, built by Rev. Samuel Lyde, has been for many years unoccupied and is badly out of repair; but our evangelist now resides in it, and there the Sabbath meetings are held. The audiences number ten to thirty-five. There are thirty-three members, but many of them live at a dis-

tance. The evangelist reaches several villages in his rounds, and finds many opportunities to speak and read to the people; but often they are so ignorant that their attention cannot be held by reading. They are very fond of Old Testament stories, but their hearts are so hard that no lasting effect seems to be produced by this means. There are a number of Ansairia children in the Latakia schools from whom we hope for better things.

Tartous.—This is the extreme southern station of our field, and cannot ordinarily be reached in less than two days. The inhabitants are Moslems and Orthodox Greeks. Here the gospel has been faithfully preached each Sabbath, except during the summer vacation, by Licentiate Juraidiny. There are fifteen members. We had communion June 3 and March 10. The attendance of young men, former pupils of the school, is especially encouraging at this time, and evidently nothing but the fear of persecution from the Greeks is hindering a number from becoming Protestants. The school is flourishing as usual, the number of pupils sometimes reaching one hundred and twenty, with an average of one hundred daily. The Sabbath school is about the same. The experiment has been successfully made of charging each pupil a small monthly sum in addition to the price of books. The sum thus collected will go far toward paying the rent of the school. The teachers are urgently requesting us to purchase ground and erect a suitable building for a school and church. They were told that it was now the turn of Tarsus, and that they would have to wait until that place was supplied, which we hope will not be long. We employ three teachers, and the wife of the licentiate is a Bible reader and visitor. She has access to many Moslem, and to all the Christian homes.

Suadia.—The meetings for worship were conducted by the teachers, and we were able to visit them and preach during the summer. Upon his arrival, the Rev. J. Boggs Dodds, at the request of the Mission, agreed to reside at Suadia and take charge of all the work there. He reports that he began to labor there Oct. 5. The boarding schools have not been reopened, but there has been a day school for girls with one teacher, and one for boys with two teachers. The daily attendance has been about seventy-five in the two schools. In addition to one and a half hours spent daily in religious instruction in the school, and three hours in teaching English, the missionary has prosecuted evangelistic work whenever possible. The weekly programme provides for the Sabbath school, and preaching on the Sabbath, forenoon and afternoon; Tuesday, a woman's meeting, and four nightly prayer meetings, each in a different part of the valley; so that a different set of people is reached each time. Besides other occasional meetings, there is the regular prayer meeting in the chapel each Thursday afternoon. The church attendance has greatly improved, and the house is usually filled. The night meetings referred to are held in houses where a gospel service would not have been thought of five years ago, and are wholly for non-church goers. Upon a general invitation given, as it is each Lord's Day, seven persons wholly outside the Protestant community heretofore, have risen and made request to be received into Church fellowship. There is good hope that several others may make a profession soon. The Lord willing, a Communion will be held a week from next Sabbath, at which Rev. C. A. Dodds will assist.

PROTESTANT NATIVE SECT.

The Turkish authorities have now formally recognized the existence of a Protestant native sect, both in Latakia and

Suadia. This confers upon them various civil privileges; but, we are sorry to say, that these privileges are denied to any one known to the Government as of Ansairia origin. Such persons are enrolled as Moslems, regardless of their profession of Christianity and of their own wishes. This attitude makes it practically impossible to preach the gospel among the Ansairia openly.

SUMMARY.

One Mission center, six out-stations, including Suadia.

Two boarding schools, five strictly day schools, three Sabbath schools, four hundred and six pupils under instruction, two hundred and fifty-seven Sabbath school pupils.

Seventeen infant baptisms. Total increase by profession, twelve; total decrease by purging the roll, fifteen (chiefly on account of removal to Egypt and North and South America); net decrease, three. Two hundred and fifty-seven communicants.

Total native contributions in collections, \$92.70; medical fees, \$247.82; receipts for medicines, \$129.84; total, \$377.66.

One licentiate employed.

Two evangelists or itinerants.

Ten male teachers.

Five female teachers.

Three Bible readers, including one in the hospital.

One pharmacist.

Six, total number of Communion held.

Eighteen hundred visits to out-patients.

One thousand patients examined in the office besides clinics.

One hundred hospital patients.

Adopted by the Mission, including Rev. J. B. Dodds, March 28, 1907. The estimates were adopted for Latakia and Suadia at same meeting.

JAMES S. STEWART.

ASIA MINOR.

The year has been one of disappointments, trying our faith, mingled with causes for thanksgiving, encouraging it. We are glad, however, to be able to record that we close the year with conditions much more satisfactory than they were at the beginning. There has been defection on the part of some, of whom we had hoped better things, and things that accompany salvation; but on the other hand, a number who had been out of the fellowship of the Church for a time have manifested the contrite and humble spirit that it is the aim of discipline to produce, and seem to have returned with sincere heart to their first love. So we thank God and take courage, knowing that whether this or that shall prosper, or both be alike good, or even both alike bad, no faithful work can be in vain in the Lord.

Perhaps the features and conditions in the three main centers of our work differ sufficiently in the different places to indicate lines of cleavage that may assist in grouping the facts deemed worthy of notice in this report.

Mersina.—In this town where the missionaries reside, the work has seemed less encouraging than in the other cities. We are not inclined, however, to charge the want of interest manifested to the fact that the missionaries live here, but perhaps largely to the fact that Mersina being a coast town, it is more Europeanized than Tarsus and Adana, which means here that with a quasi-European civilization is combined an utter disregard of God's law and a consequent introduction of the worst of European vices. The atmosphere seems peculiarly unfavorable to the production of the fruit of the Spirit, and our own Church has not been unaffected with the leaven of worldliness. At the beginning of the year the peace of our little congre-

gation was disturbed by strifes and factions, with the usual results. But some months ago the most bitter factionist was detected in gross dishonesty, and straightway withdrew from our fellowship—a fact lamentable enough in itself, and yet with the happy result that with the removal of the scorners contention has gone out, and a spirit of love and harmony, so far as we can see, prevails among those who remain.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

In addition to the regular preaching service twice each Sabbath and the midweek prayer meeting, a number of cottage preaching services have been held in a quarter of the town distant a mile or so from the Mission, with a very encouraging attendance, both as regards numbers and interest manifested.

The attendance at the Mission of those outside of the membership of the Church and schools, has been quite small for the greater part of the year. Latterly there has been an improvement. The Lord's Supper has been dispensed twice since our last report, May 27, 1906, and March 17, 1907. On these occasions ten persons united with the Church and two who had been under suspension were restored.

Sabbath school has been conducted regularly under the supervision of Miss Sterrett.

During the summer vacation regular services were conducted in Guzne much as in Mersina during the rest of the year. In addition to the Sabbath and midweek Arabic services, there was English preaching every Sabbath, and during part of the summer Mr. McCarroll conducted a preaching service in Greek. Also in Mersina after the summer vacation an attempt was made for about a month to have an English preaching service on Sabbath evenings, but as it met with little response, it was abandoned.

SCHOOL WORK.

The Mersina boarding and day schools have been, as usual, under Miss Sterrett's charge. The usual religious and academic studies have been pursued. The enrollment for the year is two hundred and fifty pupils, classified as to parentage as follows: Armenians, two; Roman Catholics, two; Moslems, six; Jews, seven; Jacobites, nine; Protestants, eighteen; Fellahin, thirty; Greek Orthodox, one hundred and seventy-six. During the year tuition has been received to the amount of five thousand five hundred and sixty-four and a half piasters, and books sold to the amount of one thousand and eighty-six piasters.

Tarsus.—The work in Tarsus has been under the immediate care of evangelist Makhail Luttoof, and so far as appears, is in a very encouraging state.

INTERESTED IN HEARING WORD.

An unusual interest has been manifested in hearing the Word of God, and our evangelist seems to be very zealous to grasp every opportunity to gratify the desire to hear. The Papists tried to gain a foothold in the neighborhood of our Mission, but have received no encouragement. Most of the people reached by our Mission in Tarsus, so far, are persons who have come in from the parts about Mardin, some of them years ago and some of them more recently. Not long ago one of our members told us that all the people hailing from those parts were ready to unite with us on our Protestant confession, if only some way could be found by which they could avoid working on the Sabbath. Of course, they ought to be ready to bear the cross, but the question of Sabbath observance is really a very hard one here, where the Sabbath is not revered by any excepting Protestants. It does not seem possible to modify our attitude toward Sabbath desecration, for if the Sabbath is

allowed to go by the board, spirituality must inevitably follow it. But nevertheless, from the human point of view, it would seem as though many must starve unless they work on the Sabbath.

The Lord's Supper was dispensed in Tarsus March 3, 1907. During the year five adult persons were received into the membership of the Church, one of them being a man who was originally a Greek Catholic, and afterward had become a Moslem.

SCHOOL WORK.

The Tarsus school is a day school only, and is in the charge of two young men as teachers. The pupils are about forty in number.

Altogether, we think this to be perhaps one of the most successful years the work in Tarsus has had for a long period. The conditions under which our work has been carried on heretofore have been very much against it. But when our building is once secured to us, and we have a nail in a sure place, we will hope for still better things.

Adana.—The work in Adana is in a more primitive state than in either Tarsus or Mersina, but is not less interesting, and is in some respects more encouraging than in either of the other places. There is no school, and yet our evangelist Hanna Basna has taught several young men to read. He is a man who has given us high satisfaction in his work, manifesting more of the positive graces than many do.

SPIRIT OF INQUIRY.

For some time there has been a very active spirit of inquiry on the part of many, and many calls for meetings in the houses of the people, for the reading and interpreting of the Scriptures. This work has been so pressing that we assigned another man for a period of three months to help Hanna. This work also, like that in Tarsus, is carried on principally among

those who have come from far eastern Turkey, but is not exclusively among Arabic speaking people. Some speak Kurdish, some Chaldee, and some Syriac. Our two evangelists between them, can work in all these languages, but only to a limited degree in the Chaldee. At the Communion held Feb. 24, 1907, two persons united with us on profession of faith. That same day the Jacobite priest warned his people publicly against going to the Protestant meetings, but our evangelist has since informed us that the only effect seems to have been to make people more eager to hear what he and his associate have to say.

The church in Adana is small, but there seems to be a warmth of evangelistic zeal among its members that is not found in such a degree in the larger congregations of Tarsus and Mersina. They seem to be constantly searching the Scriptures in order to be able to give reasons for their faith, and on their own initiative they have taken a very significant forward step.

RESULT OF BIBLE STUDY.

A month or two ago the members, to the number of nine, under the leadership of the evangelist, studied the eighth and ninth chapters of II. Corinthians, and concluded that if they were themselves going to follow the teachings of the gospel that they preach to others, they would have to try to give something for the help of the Lord's work. So they had Hanna write down their names in a book, and opposite each name an amount which that person agreed to pay within a year. Three of the nine who agreed to give something were women whose husbands had also subscribed, so as far as wage-earning is concerned, there were practically only six subscribers. The amount subscribed was three hundred and seventy-four "good" piasters, a little over sixteen dollars U. S. money. Considering that the most affluent, prob-

ably by far, of those subscribing (our evangelist), receives, in addition to his house rent (he lives in the meeting house), only eight dollars and eighty cents a month, it will be seen that this is really a very liberal subscription. And it is especially gratifying, in view of the fact that their action was spontaneous, and that this grace is one for which our churches in Turkey have not been particularly noted. May their tribe increase.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.

There are no special developments in Auba, where Bible reader Suleiman works quietly, but we hope faithfully. His sister-in-law, Zahara, who was Bible woman there, was transferred to Mersina at the beginning of 1907, to take the place of Mrs. Ghaley Dervish, deceased, as matron of the boys' school.

Our lone worker in the village of Karadash, Hanna Melky, still keeps his foothold, and we hope the Lord's work may be established there. Hanna writes that the Greek priest had taught the people there that the Protestants had no fasting and no baptism and no eucharist, and when they heard what Hanna had to say as to the Protestant position on those subjects, they were quite disgusted with their priest for having told them such lies.

This completes our survey of the different parts of our field, and we close with a few somewhat general observations.

The tracts by R. J. Dodds, on "The Eucharist," "Luther's Marriage," and "The Spirits in Prison," have been pretty widely disseminated, and although they have given some offense, they have nevertheless been provocative of thought, and have, we think, done much good.

We would add our voice to that of the

Board in calling for a helper for Miss Sterrett. It is the opinion of the majority of the Mission at least, that the management of both schools is too heavy a burden for the shoulders of one person.

Persistent and increasing rumors of the coming of the German Railway make us fear that properties will not be secured in Mersina and Adana until the price of land has gone away beyond our means. The possession of properties is fundamental to the stability and permanence of our work. We make thankful acknowledgment to friends who have made special contributions to our work here, and to the Board for steps taken to secure us a building in Tarsus, and the Church at large for its support of all our work by its contributions and its prayers. And finally, we note with satisfaction and gratitude the appointment of a medical missionary to Mersina.

STATISTICS OF TARSUS MISSION.

Communicants enrolled	86
Died during the year	3
Removed from our bounds	10
—	13
—	73
Not in good standing	8
—	—
Present in good standing	65
Number added during the year	17
Number of evangelists	2
Number of Bible readers (male)	3
Number of Bible women	1
Number of places of preaching	3
Number of schools (1 boys', 1 girls', 1 mixed)	3
Number of teachers	9
Number of pupils in field	290

C. A. DODDS.



The field reports from Cyprus and China, as well as the Report of the Central Board of Missions and Report of Jewish Mission, will appear in July number.

R. M. S.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met in Allegheny, Pa., Wednesday, May 22, 1907, when the retiring Moderator, Rev. J. Renwick Wylie, preached an excellent sermon on "Times of Refreshing," which will be found in this issue of OLIVE TREES. The Court was then constituted, and Rev. Thomas McFall, of Somerset, Nova Scotia, was unanimously elected Moderator. There was an unusually large attendance, as many as one hundred and eighty-three delegates, and much important business was transacted. While on certain points there was a difference of opinion, there was not the least unbrotherly feeling manifested in the discussion. The meeting will pass into history as one of the most pleasant and profitable which it has been our privilege to attend.



On Friday evening the Synod held a meeting to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of our Mission in Syria. The audience room was filled to overflowing with men and women who are loyal to the great work of foreign evangelization, and on the platform was Mrs. L. M. Dodds, widow of Rev. Robert J. Dodds, D.D., one of our distinguished pioneer missionaries. The addresses, both from a literary point of view and as discussions of important missionary themes, are well worthy of preservation, and will be published in pamphlet form. Rev. T. P. Stevenson, D.D., LL.D., read a "Brief History of the Foreign Missions," Rev. Prof. R. J. George, D.D., called attention to "What the Church at Home Owes to its Foreign Missions," and Rev. C. D. Trumbull, D.D., pointed out "Our Opportunity and Our Responsibility." After a few very

interesting reminiscent remarks from Rev. R. J. Dodds, of Mersina, Asia Minor, who had just arrived in America on a brief furlough, Rev. D. H. Coulter closed the exercises with a most impressive and uplifting prayer.

Besides this anniversary evening, both sessions on Monday were devoted to a consideration of the missionary operations of the Church, the work abroad in the forenoon, and the work at home in the afternoon. The devotion of so much time to the missionary enterprise is quite unusual, and reveals a quickened interest in this department of its work on the part of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. And we anticipate good results.



The Synod recommended the publication of the fiftieth anniversary addresses in pamphlet form for free circulation throughout the Church. And the Foreign Board requests each pastor, or, in case the congregation may be vacant, an elder, to send the number of families under his oversight to its Corresponding Secretary, that a copy may be placed in every home. This should be attended to at once, that it may be known how large an edition it will be necessary to issue. Address R. M. Sommerville, 325 West Fifty-sixth Street, New York.



"A History of the Foreign Missions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in America" is nearly ready for the press. The author, Rev. T. P. Stevenson, D.D., LL.D., has been a member of the Foreign Board since 1864, was for twenty years its Recording Secretary, and has at his command all the material necessary for the preparation of such a volume. According to his prospectus, it will "record

the founding of our missions and the various steps which led up to the preparation of the work; a brief life sketch of each of our missionaries, with portraits; the successive stages in the development of the work, and a full account of the results which have been accomplished. The financial tables will show, by decades, the growing spirit of liberality and self-sacrifice which has sustained the work. There will be also a careful study of each of our mission fields, with maps. Views of our mission buildings and of other scenes of interest will be given. The volume will open with careful summaries of the condition of the whole missionary enterprise at the time when our Mission was founded and at the present time. Analytical summaries for review, with references to collateral reading, will increase the value of the book to study classes, and a complete index will make every portion of its contents accessible to every reader. There will be also a special account of the Mission of the Irish and Scotch Reformed Presbyterian Churches in the Syrian field.

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If we have not been misinformed, there are to be a number of weddings soon, and we very modestly suggest that one of the young men would do well to purchase these rings for his intended bride, rather than pay some jeweller more for an inferior article. The associations connected with these rings might be the means of increasing the missionary spirit in the new family.

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